

Minutes EMS Emergency Management Committee Meeting
The Place at Innsbrook, Henrico County
November 16, 2006

Present

Bubby Bish, Governor's Advisory Board (GAB); Frank Cheatham, Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS); Terry Herbert, Virginia Department of Emergency Management, VDEM; Jim Masten, Peninsula Emergency Medical Services (PEMS); Jim Nogle, OEMS; Karen Owens, OEMS; Mike Player, VA DMAT-1/Virginia Association of Governmental EMS Administrators (VAGEMSA); Winnie Pennington, OEMS; Tom Schwartz, Member-at-Large; Michael Smith, Virginia State Police, (VSP)

Call to order:

At 1000 AM committee chairman Bubby Bish called the meeting to order.

Minutes from September meeting were approved as read

Chairman's Report:

Chairman Bish had no updates or reports at this time

Member Agency Reports/Updates:

Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) – Operation

Jim Nogle introduced Frank Cheatham as the office's new HMERT Coordinator. He explained that Frank's job would be to work with the teams on training and recruitment among other things. Frank will also travel around the state to visit with the different teams.

Jim also noted that it had been a very busy month in Operations with a deployment to the Yorktown Celebration at the end of October, participation in Symposium where operations conducted and assisted in several presentations and classes.

Jim also announced that a grant was awarded for a new vehicle for the Heath and Medical Coordination (HMERT) Teams and that Eastern Virginia now had position of a Chevy 2500 pickup truck to use for deployment of personnel and movement of equipment, etc.

Jim also briefly discussed that this brought the Ops vehicle count to two pickups, a command trailer and a HTR and task force trailer. There are other trailers but Operations is looking at the feasibility of surplus those in lieu of vehicles that will meet the deployment criteria of self-sufficiency for 72 hours. The trailers that Operations currently have do not meet that need and other things including possibly motor homes will be looked at to replace them.

Bubby Bish asked Jim if the Task Forces were eligible for Rescue Squad Assistance Fund (RSAF) Special Assistance Grants to assist with needs like trailers and what kind of matching funds were available. Jim said that the Task Forces were eligible and that the match was variable depending on the need.

Karen - No report

Winnie advised that the office was participating in its second year of the two year HRSA grant to study EMS surge. She said that the Working Group had been sent an e-mail advising them that they would be receiving additional information by mail to review and that the Group would be meeting again in February to use information gleaned out to various document to develop best practice guidance and templates for jurisdictions to use when considering their plans for surge in an MCI-like event.

Frank stated he was glad to be on board and was looking forward to working with everybody and getting the HMERTs strengthened and moving forward.

Ken - Out of the Office

Carol – Out of the Office

Yorktown Celebration

Mike Player gave a report on the activities at the Yorktown Celebrations. The planning was for 30-40 thousand persons a day. However, due to various circumstances like bad weather and the initial day being a week day with work, school, and courts still in session, those figures did not pan out. It was a four day event with the participation of 3,500 re-enactors, and a \$60,000 fireworks display. Attendance was very good on Saturday. The event was divided into four geographic areas including the town, beach front, and battlefield(s). The HMERT was utilized to augment the large number of personnel it took to cover those areas. Luckily not a lot of resources were utilized, but the areas were well covered by personnel.

Even though the plan was not tested by being pushed to its limits, a good planning template for special events was developed that can be shared with anyone interested for that type of planning. Even though it was not tested to its limits some room for improvement was noted in communications procedures when using multiple jurisdictions and resources. These areas are being addressed by the planners. Mike noted that probably the best thing about the deployment was all the responders' attention to detail and willingness to work together.

Mike also advised the committee that VA-1 DMAT has done some Disaster Medical Action Planning (DMAP) training and that he is making it available to the OEMS HMERT and members of the committee. The next class will be November 20, 2006, 0800-1700 at the TEMS office with a self-provided brown bag working lunch. There will also be a class in March 1, 2007.. The major outcome of this class will be an Incident Action Plan (IAP) and medical intelligence gathering in the planning process.

Tom asked if this course met the objective of ICS-300 and Mike answered yes, but they were not going to self-certification and the course was currently a stand alone product with the emphasis on the DMAT.

Anyone is invited to attend, but please call Mike ahead of time due to logistics issues.

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Terry Herbert reported that the VDEM Mobile Command Post (MCP) had received a communications update to include an ACU 1000 interoperability system and new Maycom radios including low band, VHF, UHF and 800 MHz. Command Post can now connect with most anyone in the field and communicate. Deployments since the last meeting included the Martinsville Speedway in Henry County, Oceana Naval Air Show and the Urbanna Oyster Festival. The Air Show was a 4-day event with total attendance of 150,000 – 200,000 and the Command Post was there as a static display and to assist if there were any request for state assistance. There were none. The Urbanna Oyster Festival was a 2-day event with approximately 80,000 visitors over both days. Nine outside jurisdictions participated in the law enforcement part of the event with Fairfax County being the biggest bringing bicycle patrols and their new command communications trailer. All communications for the event was handled through that system using their interoperability ability and it worked great. VDEM Command Post was located on the dock at the new facility build after Hurricane Isabelle and was mainly there as a static display and to assist with any requests for state resources of which there were none.

The Ernesto JFO is still open but winding down. That effort continues to be joint between FEMA and VDEM to assist local jurisdictions.

The VEOC was augmented during the October flood, October 7-9. More resource requests were made during that time than were made during Ernesto. Ernesto and the October flooding turned out to be good training events for responders at the VEOC. Web-EOC is up and running to where everyone can operate the system. Training is still done on Thursdays and everyone is welcome to take it. Just call Lavern at the VEOC to set up your training.

Upcoming Events for VDEM

November 29, 2006, 0800-1200 – Dress Rehearsal for FEMA Graded VOPEX

December 5, 2006 0800-1400 – 2006 VOPEX (FEMA Graded)

No major Hurricanes or storms this year. Impacting events in Virginia, for this Hurricane season, have been flooding.

Tom Schwartz reported that he had met with 3 different groups on behalf of Virginia EMS since he last attended a meeting. Groups were the NIMS Upgrade Committee, NIMS Matrix Compliance Meeting, and the National Consortium on Incident Management. A document on NIMS has been developed and was reviewed by a user group in V 2.2. It has now gone back to FEMA and the NIC and a newer version should be coming out in December for public comment. This will become V 2.3 after public comment there will be additional editing from FEMA and final version 2.4 will be

coming out in June, one year after the process began. One of the areas that need assistance and FEMA is looking for input on is the Area Command for Multi-Casualty Incidents as it relates to all-risk management. FEMA expects to include this in their new plan.

Tom passed out several possible organizational charts for review by the committee. Mike Player had a question on why administration and finance was not included on the complex area command organization chart. He felt that if logistics was included then there should be administration and finance to support it. Tom advised that on the generic template it was being considered as an EOC function and that it could be considered for addition with the main point being management of critical resources. Tom also advised that he would take the question back to the NIMS committee and that as we were reviewing the public document it should be noted.

Tom told the committee that the EMS credentialing document is out and included credentialing for EMT, Paramedic, Driver, Air Operations, Medical Branch, triage among other jobs. He felt that the credentialing committee had gotten a little out of sync this summer, but was well back on track now as they continue to work on positions and terminology. There is still a lot of discussion on badging for certified responders, but Tom recommended that Virginia as a whole look at the NVA model of Real, Legal, and Agency Requested. Jim also added that keeping of the data base for these resources is still a very big question. **Winnie will get the V 2.2 of NIMS out to the committee members.**

Old Business

Mike Player gave an update on the status of VA-1 DMAT. Approximately 1 year ago the team was approached by HRSA to consider taking a medical cache identical to the Federal Treatment Cache and consider being a state asset, responding to emergencies in the Commonwealth. At that time negotiations were entered into to operate a team up to 72 hours with volunteer staff. However, it was determined that someone would have to pick up tort liability and worker's compensation for the responders. At that time the Commonwealth was unwilling to provide that and the VA-1 DMAT refused the cache. Since then the State of Maryland has requested of FEMA to activate an old DMAT charter vacated sometime in the past and to create a state team for Maryland with a federal cache. During emergencies this agreement would allow Maryland to ask DHS and NDMS to federalize the team and assign it to the state. If there was no Stafford Act in play to fund the response, then Maryland under the agreement/memorandum of understanding, would reimburse DHS for salaries and expended items used. But being federalized the team members would have tort protection and federal worker's compensation. NDMS and DHS like this model and are in negotiations with their lawyers to create a template MOU. If this happens, Pennsylvania and Virginia are very interested and would revisit the idea likely leading to state DMAT teams in each state. The one hitch is that DMAT is going back to HHS in January and it unclear how this will affect the process. The good part is that NDMS is also going back to HHS with a bigger roll and possibly more money and this may also have a positive impact on the process.

New Business/Discussion

Jim Nogle reported that Emergency Operations personnel had met with Guy Chaffee who represents NDMS for Airhead Exercises. They discussed that Virginia has three designated sites designated for Air Head Activities (the mass movement of patients, generally military). Those sites are Richmond (Chesterfield), Portsmouth, and Northern Virginia. One of the questions for Mr. Chaffee from VHHA was to find what needed to be done if there was a mass evacuation of hospitals and could NDMS reverse the process and take patients out of area hospitals. Originally this was one of the selling points to get hospitals to sign on to the NDMS system. However, testing has been limited and most localities around designated areas are not aware of their responsibilities in this process. Responsibilities like: moving patients to the departure area or if patients are coming in through NDMS that they are responsible for triage, assignment and disbursement of patients to receiving hospitals. Although localities are supposed to have plans for these events, they are not testing these plans every three years as required. Only the localities in the Richmond area have conducted recent drills. OEMS Operations has offered to assist the two remaining NDMS partners in setting up drills and updating plans and systems.

Mike Player suggested that since the DMAT was originally designed to set up on a tarmac area and provide medical care, perhaps there is a partnership to be formed between NDMS and DMAT.

Jim Nogle shared with the committee a draft document called the "Prehospital Triage Target Capabilities Report". This document was prepared by the Domestic Preparedness Committee of the National Association of EMS Directors. It looks at setting up standard for prehospital triage to include things like number of ambulances and personnel, etc. Apparently the committee is looking for comment. Jim added that there appears to be some good information and ideas; however, there are some not so realistic points also. **He will have Winnie attach the document to the minutes so that this committee can review.**

Tom Schwartz commented that his concern with this and other documents like it was that there was "stove piping: going on in the discipline.

Mike Player inquired of the committee the status of web-EOC v.s. EM system. His understanding was that the EM system was going away and that all jurisdictions and hospitals would be at some date required to use web-EOC for coordination and management of hospital and EMS resources. His concern was that he had little information or a time frame for making that happen and needed additional guidance on what to do. Terry Hebert from the VEOC advised that Kevin Price was the web-EOC manager at VDEM and that Mike might want to contact him. Jim Nogle advised that to his knowledge the information feed was supposed to be seamless into web-EOC.

Jim Maston did give some additional information in that he said that it was his understanding that funding will be cut off for EM system December 31, 2006 and all

would be required to use web-EOC starting January 1, 2007. It is his understanding that one copy of the program would be given locally and that it would be up to the locality as to where it would go, but the suggestion would be the PSAP.

It was decided by the committee that additional information and updates were needed from Steve Ennis of VHHA.

Tom Schwartz wanted the minutes to reflect congratulations to the Virginia State Police for be a national role model/example in the compliance with NIMS directives for plain language in radio traffic and additionally identifying discrepancies between jurisdictions and doing away with their 10-codes not just as a matter of national compliance but in the interest of public safety across the Commonwealth and creating a positive example for the Nation. He would like this to be re-emphasized to our Fire and EMS organizations.

Jim Maston suggested that one way to get it out was by use of Governor's proclamation. Agencies have access that and can use freely. Jim Nogle advised that a notice did go out to all the PSAPs. Also a letter supporting the compliance has gone out through OEMS.

OEMS Operations has been involved in additional meetings since the last committee meeting. One is the Lane Reversal of I-64 and Evacuation of Tidewater in the event of catastrophic Hurricane headed by VDOT. Winnie is attending these meetings. OEMS position will be that VDOT and the other members of the committee should work with local jurisdictions to decide use of providers and mutual aid and routes used for EMS activities. They had not discussed this with localities as of their last meeting. Task Forces will not be available as they will be preparing to enter and work in the Tidewater localities after the storm.

Another meeting involved inmate evacuation which discussed the medical necessity and ability to evacuate persons in the sick bay of the prison. Although Operations was not able to send a representative to the first meeting it will present the concept that most prisons either have their own ambulances or contract with ambulance companies and it should be written in their plan to allow enough time and resources to get those patients out in a timely manner during an anticipated emergency like a hurricane. The event would not be enough to activate the Task Forces and there are also safety concerns when using them.

Jim Maston passed on a lesson learn item. PEMS has a lot of jurisdictions that are very unfamiliar with NIMS so they have developed a 3 hour class for the locals in basic Incident Management using OEMS Basic ICS and the MCI Mod 2- IMS Section. It is especially true in the more rural jurisdictions. The class has worked very well at introducing them to NIMS. Once class is over jurisdictions are expected to go home and use the techniques and then at a future date come back together for an exercise to check skills.

Karen Owens inquired about NIMS Compliance changes for training. Mike Player shared with the committee a document with 23 requirements and gave a copy to Winnie it include with the minutes.

Next Scheduled Meeting

Meetings of the Emergency Management Sub-Committee will now be held quarterly on the Thursday prior to the Advisory Board meeting. The committee's next scheduled meeting will be on February 1, 2007.

All meetings are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 P.M. and lunch is served. Due to ongoing negotiations the location will be announced at a later date.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1200 P.M.

Attachments:

- Virginia Department of Emergency Management Summary of Local Government 2007 NIMS Compliance Elements (*pages 1 and 2*)
- Version 2.1 Draft of the National Incident Management System
- Version 2.2 Draft of the National Incident Management System
- NIMS Upgrades Comment Matrix
- NIMS Upgraded Comment Matrix – *Instructions*
- Prehospital Triage Target Capabilities Report